



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

E. H. VOLCKMANN and KENT WEGLEY

Invention:

ASSEMBLY FOR SEALING ELECTRICAL LEADS TO
INTERNAL ELECTRICAL DEVICE

App No.:

09/683,061

Filed:

NOVEMBER 14, 2001

Group Art Unit:

2832

Examining Attorney:

T. NGUYEN

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

In response to the office action dated August 8, 2003, in which the examiner made certain election/restriction requirements, Applicants hereby elect for examination purposes Claims 1-7, drawn to an electrical assembly. It is therefore understood that Claims 8-9 drawn to a method for producing an electrical assembly will be withdrawn from examination in this application.

With respect to the examiner's position that the application also contains product claims directed to patentably distinct species of Figs. 1 through 7 and Figs. 8-9, Applicants disagree that these are patentably distinct species. The embodiment of Figs. 8-9 merely combines the seal housings 17 and 18 into a single seal housing 17b with the interior

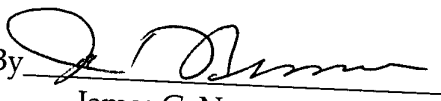
construction and dimensions being the same as for the individual housings 17 and 18. (see ¶0024 of the Specification) It is submitted that combining the two housings into one which has the same basic function does not create a patentably distinct species. In this regard, Claims 1 through 7 cover a housing for a single lead wire, but the claims would encompass the embodiment of Figs. 8 and 9. In other words, if the patent issues containing Claims 1 through 7, and someone makes, uses or sells the embodiment of Figs. 8 and 9 in which the seal housing encompasses two lead wires, such action would constitute an infringement of Claims 1 through 7.

Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute the species of Figs. 1 through 7.

Further and favorable action of this application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

E. H. VOLCKMANN and KENT WEGLEY

By 
James C. Nemmers
Attorney for Applicant

James C. Nemmers
Shuttleworth & Ingersoll, PLC
115 3rd Street SE, Suite 500
P.O. Box 2107
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406
Phone: (319) 365-9461
Fax: (319) 365-8443
Email: jcn@shuttleworthlaw.com
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